



SUGAR LAND'S COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

A Well Planned Community • Safest City in the Area • Strong Local Economy
Responsible City Government • Mobility for People

Summer 2002

Around Town



Attendance at this year's Red, White and Bluefest exceeded 25,000, as Sugar Land residents celebrated July 4th at Oyster Creek Park.



WHAT'S INSIDE:

- New Police Chief 3
- U.S. 90A Expansion 4
- Ask City..... 6

During a reception at City Hall, Waste Management formally presented Sugar Land with the U.S. Conference of Mayors' 2002 City Livability Award.



The inaugural citywide homeowners' associations (HOA) meeting at City Hall attracted more than 30 HOA representatives interested in an update on Sugar Land projects and other issues.

Michael Schiff

Sugar Land City Council unanimously appointed **Michael S. Schiff** to fill the position of District Four until the next election in May 2003. Schiff fills the unexpired term of David G. Wallace who was elected this past May to the position of Mayor.

Schiff has lived in Sugar Land and in his current district for 20 years. He is president of Schiff Advisory Services, Inc. and managing partner of Incomar Investments, L.P. He is the founder of Coast Energy Group, Inc. and was its president until 1994. He has nearly 30 years of experience in business and investments; he graduated cum laude with a bachelor of arts from American University and a master of business administration from the Wharton graduate division of the University of Pennsylvania.

Schiff and his wife, Jan, have a son and a daughter and live in the Sweetwater Subdivision.



Joins City Council

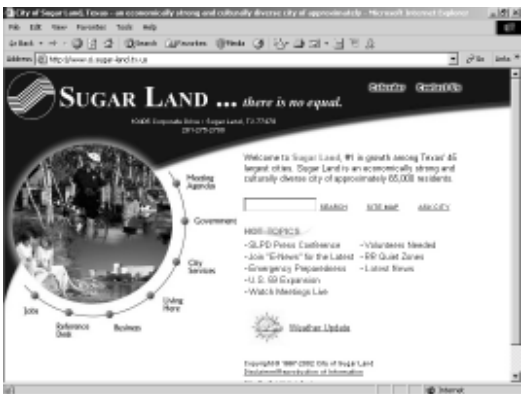
Sugar Land Achieves National Livability Award

Sugar Land held true to its slogan "there is no equal" with its achievement of the U.S. Conference of Mayors' 2002 City Livability Award.

While Sugar Land won for cities with a population under 100,000, Chicago won the large city population category. The awards program recognizes cities showing exemplary leadership in developing and implementing programs that improve the quality of life in America.

Sugar Land received this national honor for its two-year-old community garden program administered by the municipal court. The program demonstrates to juveniles that each person is responsible for his/her own conduct and that every action has a consequence. Instead of paying municipal citations for Class C misdemeanor offenses, juveniles can be assigned to work in a garden located in the City's public works complex.

Sugar Land Launches New Web Site



Check out Sugar Land's new Web site at www.ci.sugar-land.tx.us for a variety of new features, including a search engine, a comprehensive site map and an organizational flow chart with e-mail contacts. With a fresh new look and streamlined navigation, the City continues to capitalize on technology to improve service delivery and make government more accessible to the public. With the addition of interactive communications on the site, users now can pay traffic fines, access City bid information, print 29 City forms (house watch, bicycle registration, etc.), register for E-News (an e-mail subscription service) and fill out and submit job applications.

Other Web site services include a daily crime report, an on-line water application, live broadcasts of City Council and Planning and Zoning Commission meetings and more.

CITY COUNCIL

David G. Wallace
Mayor

James A. Thompson
At-Large Position One

Daniel O. Wong
At-Large Position Two

Donald Smithers
Mayor Pro-Tem, Single Member District One

Cyril Hosley
Single Member District Two

J. Brian Gaston
Single Member District Three

Michael S. Schiff
Single Member District Four

CITY MANAGEMENT

Allen Bogard
City Manager

David Ellison
Assistant City Manager/Public Safety

Paul Hofmann
Assistant City Manager/Community Services

ASK CITY

A resource for citizens who do not know where or whom to call, ASK CITY provides high quality customer service for Sugar Land residents and visitors. Inquiries, complaints, compliments and requests may be directed to 281/ ASK-CITY (275-2489).

Police Department Expansion Update

Completion of the police and municipal court facility's expansion is expected early in 2003.

The additional 20,000 square feet – expected to accommodate a population of more than 75,000 – will include a second courtroom, as well as more space for the police department.

During the renovation, the following sections have been relocated: police administration, crime prevention and training, identification, youth services and detectives. Despite the move, police and municipal court operations have not been affected.

Is Crime Happening in Your Neighborhood?

Did you know that the Sugar Land Police Department posts a list of major crimes that occur within Sugar Land on the City's Web site? Simply go to <http://www.ci.sugar-land.tx.us> and click on "City Services," then "Police" and "Daily Crime Information."

The seven-day listing is updated daily and provides a quick way of determining what types of crimes are occurring within the City and where they are occurring.

We Want to Hear From You

A keystone to City services is citizen feedback. Later this year, Sugar Land will be asking residents to provide their opinions on the services offered by the City. The survey will build on benchmark data collected from a phone survey three years ago.

We're interested in your thoughts on public safety, parks and recreation, public works and all other City services. We plan to use this information to strengthen our customer service and as a review of the wide range of services currently offered to residents. Expect to hear from us during the fall.

Michael Van Court is Sugar Land's New Police Chief



Michael Van Court has been named Sugar Land police chief, effective Aug. 1. Van Court had been assistant police chief since he joined Sugar Land in November 1999.

He replaces Earnest Taylor, who announced his retirement, effective March 15, 2003. Concurrent with Van Court's promotion, Taylor was named executive advisor for public safety.

Van Court brings 32 years of professional law enforcement experience to his new role. Prior to joining the Sugar Land Police Department, he was assistant police chief for the University of Houston-Downtown Police Department. His major responsibilities included the budget, policy and procedures. He also had served 23 years with the Houston Police Department, where his background included general and helicopter patrol, tactical unit coordination, narcotic investigations and special task forces involving local, state and federal law enforcement agencies.

Homeless Pets Need Caring Families

Looking for a family pet? Why not try the Sugar Land Animal Shelter, where excellent animals need loving families.

Animals of all ages and breeds are available for adoption, including cats, dogs and occasionally, a rabbit or bird. When animals aren't adopted, they are sent to the Houston Humane Society for adoption or euthanasia.

Every week, a "Pet of the Week" is posted on Sugar Land's Web site at www.ci.sugar-land.tx.us. Just click on "City Services," then "Police" and finally, "Adopt a Pet." A pet of the week is also featured in the local newspaper.

If you are interested in adopting an animal, please contact Sugar Land Animal Control at (281) 275-2596 for adoption rules.



■ Commuter Rail Through Fort Bend?

The U.S. Highway 90A Commuter Rail Feasibility Study has been initiated. The Houston-Galveston Area Council is the lead agency, with other financial participation from the Texas Department of Transportation and METRO. The study will extend from the Richmond-Rosenberg area to south of Reliant Park with the potential of a connection to the "Downtown-to-Astrodome" light rail currently under construction by METRO. The study is only to determine commuter rail feasibility in the near future. If feasible, a Major Investment Study (MIS)/preliminary engineering will be required.

The initial work will include a technical analysis, including:

- land use;
- growth;
- competition with the road network;
- environmental concerns;
- assessment of current infrastructure; and
- evaluation of origins and destinations, including ridership surveys.

The study is anticipated to be completed in spring 2003. While the City has no financial stake in the study, it will monitor the progress, as the study could impact Sugar Land.

■ U.S. 90A Expansion Provides Opportunity to Address Rail Noise

With the U.S. Highway 59 (U.S. Highway 90A to State Highway 6) main lanes scheduled for completion by the end of the year, the state has started its process for the expansion of U.S. 90A through Sugar Land. Funding for the design of the proposed eight-lane roadway has been allocated by the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), while construction funding has yet to be appropriated.

As part of the U.S. 90A design process, Sugar Land is actively working with the state and other agencies to identify strategies to mitigate the need for trains to blow their whistles. Ideas under consideration include underpasses, overpasses, permanent closure of rail crossings, as well as nighttime closures. Currently, TxDOT has the U.S. 59/U.S. 90A tri-level interchange under construction, and the U.S. 90A/Highway 6 bi-level interchange is under design, with construction funded for fiscal year 2004.

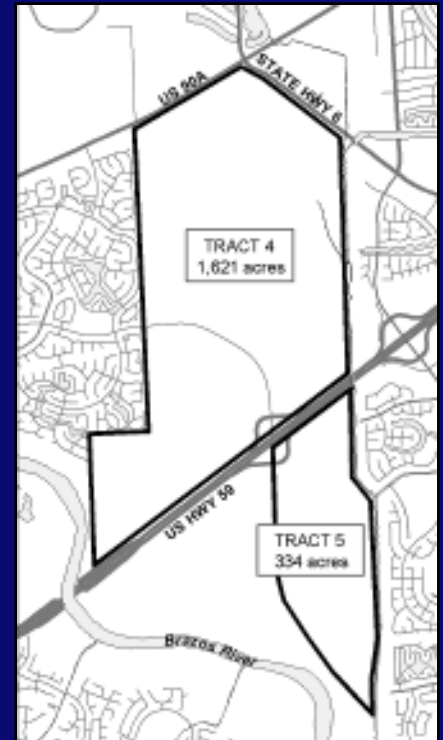
■ TREK Express Beats Daily Grind

Tired of the stop-and-go grind of the daily commute? TREK Express - a local weekday shuttle service between First Colony AMC Theatre and Uptown/Galleria or METRO's West Bellfort Park and Ride lot - allows riders to get a jump start on the work day or just relax on the way to the office. The non-profit organization operates six 29-passenger shuttle busses with departures every 15 minutes between 5:45-8:45 a.m. and 3:30-6:30 p.m., Monday-Friday.

For those afraid to ride the bus due to the possibility of illness or another family need, TREK offers an emergency ride program during the day. And commuting on TREK is expected to become more accessible with an additional stop at the park-and-ride lot scheduled to open at UH System at Sugar Land in the near future. There's also good news for Greenway Plaza employees, as a new route from Sugar Land to the plaza is scheduled to begin in mid August.

For more information, call (713) 965-1711 or visit www.trekexpress.org.

State-Owned Property Update



The proposed sale of the state-owned properties known as Tracts 4 and 5, located within Sugar Land's city limits and extra-territorial jurisdiction, is one step closer. The state through the General Land Office (GLO) intends to sell the 1,955 acres later this year.

Sugar Land City Council and staff are working diligently to inform the GLO of the City's expectations for development of the property, including continued quality, master-planned development in this area. As outlined in the bid package, Sugar Land will have the opportunity to approve a general land-use plan and development agreement prior to the closing of the sale.

All purchases/sales must be approved by the School Land Board, which is made up of the land commissioner and two appointees, one by the governor and one by the attorney general.

New Emergency Management Director



Assistant Chief **Raul Trevino**, a 20-year veteran of the Sugar Land Fire Department, has been appointed to the newly created position of emergency management director.

In his new role, Trevino will serve as Sugar Land's organizational and community link to coordination, planning, implementation and sustaining the City's local emergency management program. In addition, he will be responsible for the coordination of emergency services with local, county, state and federal agencies.

As a member of the emergency management task force - a group formed to comprehensively review the City's emergency management program - Trevino was instrumental in developing a comprehensive list of actions and recommendations intended to enhance the City's emergency response plans and take into consideration all types of risk. In his new role as emergency management director, he will be charged with implementing the recommendations of the task force. Trevino has already coordinated the update of the City's Emergency Management Plan and is currently working with key departments to develop standard operating procedures for use during emergencies.

Keep Texas Beautiful

Sugar Land joined eight other Texas cities, in their respective population categories, to win the 2002 Keep Texas Beautiful (KTB) Governor's Community Achievement Award. The City, through Keep Sugar Land Beautiful, was awarded a \$130,000 landscaping prize for improvements along state-maintained highways. The program recognizes communities for litter prevention, beautification programs and minimizing solid waste.

Sugar Land was also the recipient of KTB's 2002 Government Environment Award for outstanding contributions by a local government to support the goals of KTB.

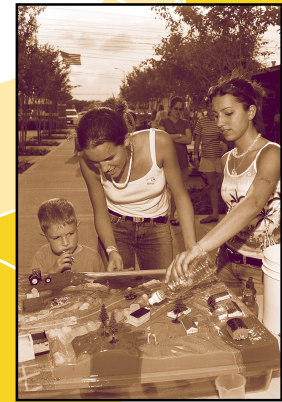
Water Conservation Featured at Sugar Land's H2O Expo



*First-place winner
Brad Fontana*



*First-place artwork
winner Elise Tayam*



*Sugar Land high school
students show youngsters the
effects of water runoff and
how pollution occurs in
our waterways.*

Hundreds of youth and adults attended Sugar Land's 2002 H2O EXPO held at Lost Creek Park.

The three-hour event focused on the importance of water conservation through hands-on, interactive demonstrations from groups like Mad Science, a team of lab coat-clad scientists who make learning fun. During the event, the following winners of this year's water conservation book cover art contest were recognized:

- **First place:** Colony Meadows third-grader Brad Fontana;
- **Second place:** Colony Meadows third-grader Laura Heinemann;
- **Third place:** Colony Meadows third-grader Anam Kesaria;
- **First place:** Barrington Place fourth-grader Elise Tayam;
- **Second place:** Palmer fourth-grader Femi Oniyitan; and
- **Third place:** Palmer fourth-grader Charlie Van Tran.

Sugar Land Assesses Emergency Preparedness

Last year proves that emergencies can occur quickly and many times without notice. Immediately following the Sept. 11 tragedies, Sugar Land began an initiative to strengthen its commitment to emergency management.

An emergency preparedness task force was formed and identified priorities that included a security assessment of City facilities, enhanced communications with the public, emergency preparation training for City employees and the public, regional coordination of emergency response and better organization of resources. As a result, the following has been implemented:

- Created an Emergency Management Office
- Updated Sugar Land's Emergency Management Plan
- Provided weapons of mass destruction training for public safety responders
- Heightened security at Sugar Land Airport
- Implemented security improvements to City facilities and infrastructure
- Created a permanent and an alternate Emergency Operations Center
- Expanded the Sugar Land Fire Department's hazardous materials response capabilities
- Mailed an emergency preparedness brochure to all homes in Sugar Land

■ Landmark Sculpture Planned for Town Square

The City of Sugar Land, Sugarland Properties Incorporated and SLA Studio Land Planners and Architects have named highly acclaimed artist Bob Pack as the designer and sculptor of the fountain sculpture to be erected in the plaza of Sugar Land Town Square.

The sculpture will depict Stephen F. Austin emerging from the Brazos River, as represented by the rushing water of the plaza fountain. The 14-foot tall, 20-foot long sculpture is intended to celebrate the history of Fort Bend, where Stephen F. Austin first established a Texas settlement.

The 32-acre Sugar Land Town Square – located at the intersection of U.S. Highway 59 and State Highway 6 – will contain 200,000 square feet of upscale Main Street retail topped by approximately 750,000 square feet of Class A office space, the 300-room full-service Sugar Land Marriott Town Square and Sugar Land Conference Center, a new City Hall and the pedestrian plaza.



■ A Bright Future Ahead for Sugar Land

Sugar Land's nine-member Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee recently completed 10 months of work in assisting the City Council and staff to update the City's Comprehensive Plan, a document originally adopted in 1993. The committee recommended 13 goals, objectives and strategies to the city manager. These goals will guide the City for the next 20 years, with objectives and strategies to be accomplished within the next five to seven years.

The Council and city manager will be reviewing the work recommended by the committee and planning for an October summit for community input. The work of the steering committee is available on the City's Web site – <http://www.ci.sugar-land.tx.us> – under latest news, then comprehensive plan. Comments are welcomed and appreciated.

Many thanks to committee members Thomas Chapman, Steve Ewbank, Kathy Huebner, Andre McDonald, Ray Nixon, Narendra Patel, Dinesh Shah, Mary Von Tungeln and Chairman Joe Zimmerman. For more information on the comprehensive plan, contact the planning department at (281) 275-2818.

ASK CITY: Your First Call to City Hall

Have a City question but don't know whom to call? Try ASK CITY for immediate, hassle-free responses to questions on services provided by Sugar Land. Trash concerns? Water bills? Neighborhood complaints? Just call ASK CITY at (281) 275-2489.

The ASK CITY line is staffed Monday-Friday, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Voice mail and e-mail access (askcity@ci.sugar-land.tx.us) is available 24 hours a day and will be reviewed on the next business day.

Many ASK CITY callers simply request contacts; many of these can be found on the City's Web site, www.ci.sugar-land.tx.us, under the sections entitled "Living Here" and "City Services." Some phone numbers to keep handy are:

- Revenue Department: (281) 275-2750. Call for new water service or questions on your monthly bill.
- Public Works Department: (281) 275-2450. This line will assist you with issues concerning trash pick-up, street repairs, traffic signals and water line leaks.
- Animal Control: (281) 275-2596. Call this number to report lost pets or animals running loose through the neighborhood.
- Police Department: (281) 275-2500. Use this number for non-emergency situations. In an emergency, dial 911.
- Other Helpful Numbers:
 - Fort Bend County: (281) 342-3411
 - First Colony Community Association: (281) 634-9500
 - Fort Bend Independent School District: (281) 634-1000
 - Reliant HL&P (Electric): (713) 207-7777
 - Reliant Entex (Gas): (281) 342-6665
 - Alltel Telephone: 1 (800) 501-1754

If you are still not sure whom to contact, dial ASK CITY at (281) 275-2489.

We NEVER Close

With the launch of the City's new Web site, "we never close" is fast becoming a true statement.

- The Web site provides an array of opportunities to obtain and submit information, including on-line forms and applications. An exhaustive departmental phone list, as well as e-mail addresses, is posted under "Contact Us." If you're still not sure whom to call, click on "Ask City" and send an e-mail for answers on a wide range of City topics.
- Sugar Land was one of the first cities in Texas to broadcast live City Council and Planning and Zoning Commission meetings over the Internet. If you miss a meeting, no need to worry. They're archived for future viewing 24 hours per day.
- Check out meeting agendas on the Web. Whether City Council or one of the various boards and commissions, agendas are posted to the Web prior to meetings, then archived for future reference. Minutes of meetings are also posted in the "Government" section of the Web site.

Garbage and Trash

Chapter 12, Article 1 of Sugar Land's Code of Ordinances includes the following regulations regarding garbage and trash:

- 1) There should be sufficient numbers of containers to hold all solid waste generated from a property.
- 2) Solid waste containers must be kept on the property and in a clean and sanitary condition - in good repair and free of holes, cracks and splits. The containers must have tightly fitting lids.
- 3) Areas surrounding containers must be kept clean and free of debris.
- 4) Containers may not be placed on streets or sidewalks or in locations that block their use.

In order for trash to be collected, the following requirements must be followed:

- 1) Garbage should be secured in plastic bags or containers with a maximum capacity of 45 gallons in size.
- 2) Tree limbs and rubbish may not exceed four feet in length, and no more than 15 cubic yards of tree limbs and rubbish may be placed curbside for removal on one collection day.
- 3) Automobile parts, tires, lead batteries, motor oil, gasoline, paint, construction debris, chemicals, corrosives and other hazardous or toxic materials or waste may not be placed at curbside for disposal by Sugar Land.
- 4) All solid waste should be placed no farther than eight feet from the curb for collection no later than 7 a.m. of the day of collection.

Parking: Neighborhood Traffic

The "No-Parking" section of Sugar Land's Neighborhood Traffic Policy enables residents to request no-parking zones along City streets.

- In order to implement a no-parking zone along a street, a signed petition with 100 percent of the affected property owners must be submitted to the City.
- To reverse a portion or all of a no-parking zone along a street, 75 percent of the affected property owners must sign and submit a petition.
- "No-Parking" signs will be posted in locations determined by the Sugar Land Public Works Department and the requesting party.
- All No-Parking zone applications shall be thoroughly reviewed by public works after a period of two full years from the date of implementation. The No-Parking zone shall remain in effect unless a compelling safety reason is discovered.

Power Demands Increase

Reliant Energy HL&P has scheduled an electrical upgrade along its easement in First Colony, some of which is located on residential lots. The easement begins at Lexington south of State Highway 6 and crosses Grants Lake, Williams Grant, Williams Trace, Mesquite, Settlers Way, Whetrock Lane and Flintrock Lane within First Colony.

Development has overloaded the existing infrastructure, making the upgrade essential to meet the area's electricity needs. Existing towers will be replaced with taller single concrete poles capable of transporting more electricity. Scheduled to begin in August and last 12-14 weeks, some tree trimming and clearing of the easement will be necessary as part of the upgrade.

Reliant Energy HL&P plans to meet with residents who are directly affected. For more information, call Land & Right-Of-Way Agent Larry Wilson at (713) 207-1628; Transmission Engineer Lee Stoerner at (713) 207-6480; or Pat Johnson, of the Sugar Land Service Center, at (281) 561-3202.

LIBERTY GARDEN PAYS TRIBUTE



Volunteers from Duke Energy, Duke-Fluor Daniel and Keep Sugar Land Beautiful are proud of their efforts.

Keep Sugar Land Beautiful recently created a Liberty Garden in Oyster Creek Park as a tribute to our nation and to the resilience and strength of its people. The idea was to create a place of natural beauty and respite - an area that would provide reassurance through the continuity and growth found in nature. Included in the garden are roses, trees native to this area and bushes that will attract butterflies.

Sponsors and volunteers who worked to create the garden include the City of Sugar Land Parks and Recreation staff, Duke Energy and Duke-Fluor Daniel, the First Colony Community Association and the Sugar Land Garden Club. Other donations came from Cantera Stoneworks, Houston Landscapes Unlimited, Certified Landscapes and Maintenance, Living Earth Technology and Southern Lawn Services.

Exchange Club of Sugar Land Salutes Fort Bend's Finest

Former Sugar Land Police Chief Earnest Taylor will be honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award for his more than 30 years of service to the community.

This special event will take place on Sept. 11 at First Colony Mall, from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., at the Badges of Courage "Recognition and Remembrance Day" for Fort Bend County officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty. The all-day event, which includes mini seminars and special exhibits, is a partnership between First Colony Mall and Exchange Club of Sugar Land.

A law enforcement honor guard will stand at attention at an Eternal Flame with the names of those lost in the line of duty in Fort Bend County on a plaque. The honor guard will be composed in rotating shifts by county law enforcement agencies. Outside the mall entrance, fire trucks, police vehicles, ambulances and other equipment will be on view.

Holiday Trash Pick-Up

Labor Day (Monday, September 2): Monday's solid waste collection will occur on Tuesday, and Tuesday's collection will occur on Wednesday.

Thanksgiving Day (Thursday, November 28): Thursday's solid waste collection will occur on Friday, and Friday's collection will occur on Saturday.



City of Sugar Land
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